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Though these views are so entirely novel, and even startling, and opposed in respect to the origin of granite to the results obtained by the Canadian Survey among the vast masses of granite in Canada West, it is nevertheless a philosophical essay which commands our respect from its solidity, and the evident familiarity and experience of the author with his subject. Whether the principles laid down are true or not in the general application for them claimed, this essay has unquestionably opened a new path to geological investigations.

THE VOLCANOES OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.\*—This work is filled with numerous observations, many of great value, made by the author during his travels among these islands. The whole group is treated one by one in detail.

From Mr. Coan, and others resident among the Sandwich Islands, the author gathered many interesting facts with regard to the various eruptions of the volcanoes of Hawaii, and the physical geography of other members of the group.

The maps of the Kauai and main groups are original, and the crater of Kilauea, on the scale of one-half mile to the inch, is from an actual survey by Mr. Brigham, and of great value to future explorers.

One fact of general interest is, that while the Hawaiian lines of volcanoes run east and west, the major axis of their oval craters are invariably north and south, and, by comparison with the craters of eighteen other lines of volcanoes, it is found that they are generally at right angles with the axes of elevation of the different mountain chains to which they belong.

Mr. Brigham adheres to the mechanical theory of the origin of volcanoes,—“the earth’s crust contracts unequally owing to its various composition, structure, and form, causing certain portions to fall below the general level, opening rents at the boundaries, and forcing up molten matter to the surface.

THE GEOLOGY OF IOWA.†—This survey, conducted by Dr. C. A. White, and his assistant, Mr. O. H. St. John, has extended over the counties to the south-west of the Des Moines River, and resulted in the discovery of two series of the Carboniferous rocks. The upper series of beds lie to the south-west of this river, attaining a maximum thickness of one hundred and seventy-five feet. A coal-bed, twenty inches in thickness, was traced along the valley of the Nodaways through the counties of Adams, Taylor, and Page. The upper series, comprising nearly all the workable coal-beds in the State, is found to the north-east of the Des Moines River. The inclination of the strata is south-west, and therefore Dr. White argues that miners in the south-western counties may expect to find pro-

\* Notes on the Volcanoes of the Hawaiian Islands, with a History of their various Eruptions. By W. T. Brigham, A. M. Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. I, Part 3, pp. 132, with five plates.

† First and Second Annual Report of Progress. By the State Geologist and the Assistant and Chemist on the Geological Survey of the State of Iowa. 8vo, 284 pp. Des Moines, 1868.

ductive coal-beds by shafting through the Upper Series, a result which will probably prove of great economical value to the people of this part of the State. A new feature is the publication of popular letters which were originally written for the newspapers by order of the legislature of Iowa while the survey was in progress, a plan which other States might do well to imitate, since it brings directly before the people of each county what the survey is really accomplishing for their benefit. Gypsum was found in such quantities near Fort Dodge that it has been used as a building stone. In Mills county two systems of glacial scratches were found diverging at an angle of thirty-one degrees, and about twenty miles north another system diverging from one of these ninety-three degrees. The first two "approximately coincide with the general courses of the Missouri and Platte Rivers," and the last with "the general direction of the drainage of the western watershed." The "Walled Lakes" of Iowa, a paper also published in the May number of this Magazine, is especially interesting as showing how nature, in some of her processes, may build up a structure so regular that it may be mistaken for an artificial construction. Some space is also given to descriptions of Indian mounds, usually circular in form, but thus far found to be barren of implements or other remains, and occupying the most elevated and picturesque elevations. No conjecture is made in respect to their character or the purposes for which they were intended by their ancient builders.

CALIFORNIA MOSSES.\*—Professor Lesquereux remarks that "The flora of California, in all its departments, is liable to great local varieties, according to the peculiar atmospheric and chemical conditions to which it is subjected. The more the phænogamic flora of that region is studied, the more the number of species is diminished."

THE VARIATION OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS UNDER DOMESTICATION.†—We have but space at present to quote from Dr. Gray's preface to the American Edition regarding this storehouse of facts, with which every naturalist, as well as agriculturist, should be acquainted.

"It is a perfect treasury of facts relative to domesticated animals and some of the more important cultivated plants; of the principles which govern the production, improvement, and preservation of breeds and races; of the laws of inheritance, upon which all organization of improved varieties depends; of the ill effects of breeding in-and-in, necessary though this be to the full development and perpetuation of a choice race or breed; and of the good effects of an occasional cross, by which, rightly managed, a breed may be invigorated or improved. These and various kindred subjects are discussed scientifically with rare ability, acuteness, and impartiality, by one who has devoted most of his life to

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\* The California Academy of Science (formerly California Academy of *Natural Sciences*) has begun to publish quarto Memoirs. Vol. I, Part I, contains a "Catalogue of Pacific Coast Mosses," by Professor Leo Lesquereux. pp. 33.

† The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication. By Charles Darwin. Authorized edition, with a Preface by Professor Asa Gray. 2 vols. 12mo, with Illustrations. New York, Orange Judd & Co., 1868. \$6.00.